

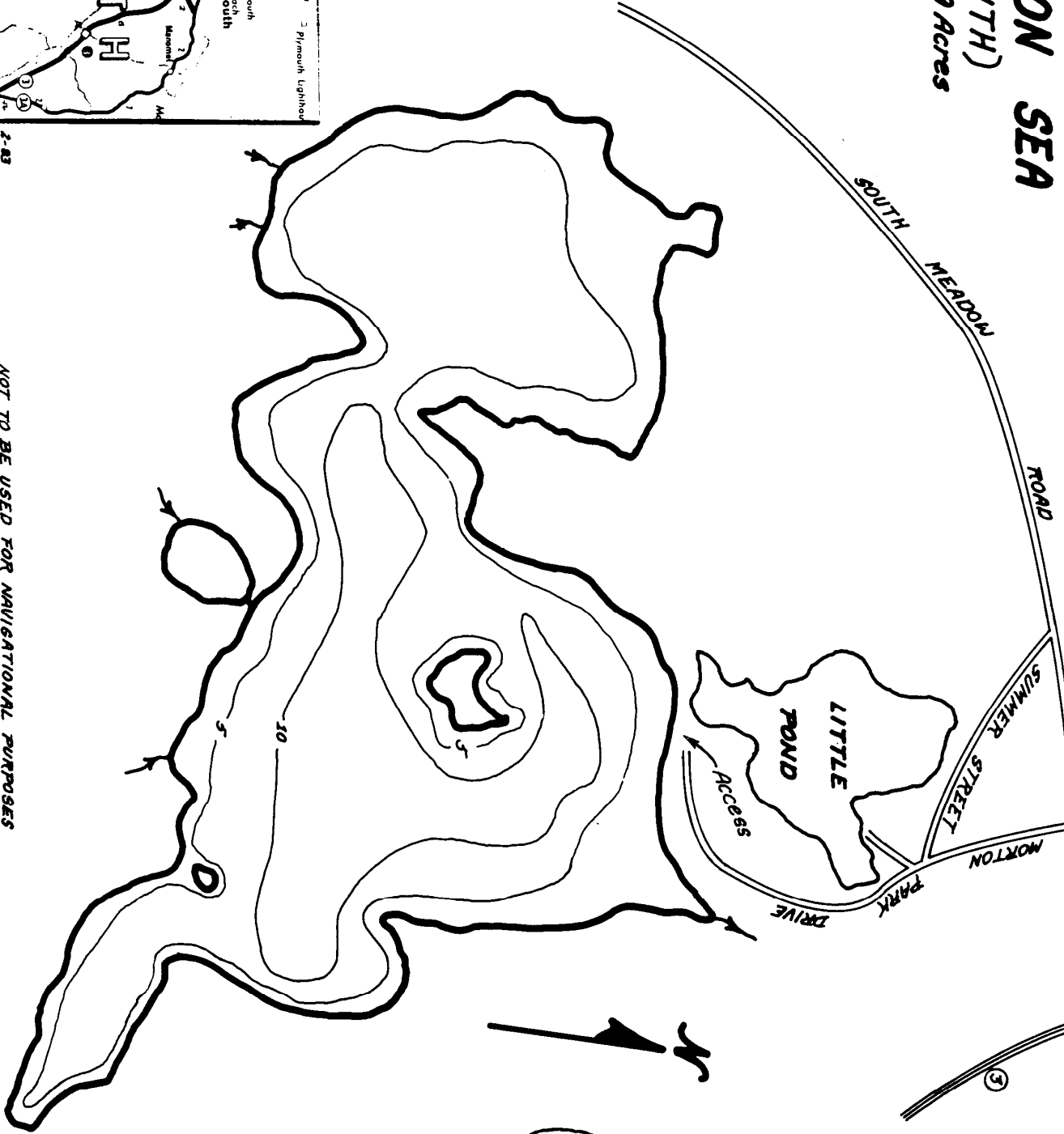
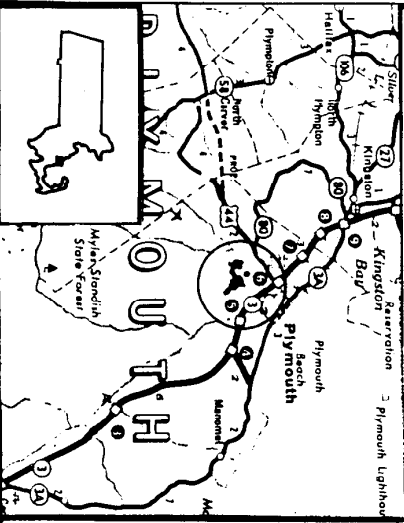
BILLINGTON SEA

(PLYMOUTH)

AREA - 269 Acres



LOCATION



BILLINGTON SEA (Plymouth)

General Information:

This natural, 269-acre warm water pond is located southwest of the center of Plymouth, west of Route 3, and south of Route 44. Shallow, weedy and fertile, this eutrophic lake is fed primarily by groundwater and cranberry bog outlets. Aquatic weeds are exceptionally abundant. Average depth is seven feet and maximum depth is 11 feet. The bottom is predominantly mud, although shoreline areas tend to be quite sandy. Except for the northern section, most of the shoreline is developed with houses.

Access for boat and shore fishing is provided by a public right-of-way on the pond's northern shore in Morton Town Park (Little Pond). To reach the launching site, take the dirt road bordering the southern shore of Little Pond. The ramp is sand and is most suitable for launching car top boats and canoes.

This pond has been stocked with a huge assortment of fish species throughout much of its management history (including even crayfish, stocked in 1915). While it was never reclaimed, the pond was subjected to intensive fyke netting to remove suckers, shiners and small panfish from 1950-1954. It was closed for many years to ice fishing, but that is no longer in effect.

Billington Sea was one of the first large ponds viewed by the Pilgrim settlers of Plymouth Colony. According to J.S.C. Abbott in **The Pioneers and Patriots of America**, "One of their number, Francis Billington...climbed a tree upon the top of a hill, whence he saw, about two miles southwest from the town, (Plymouth) a large body of water, which was either a lake or an arm of the sea, he could not tell which."

Fish Populations:

The pond was surveyed most recently on June 6, 1988 and the following species were found: golden shiner, white perch, white sucker, brown bullhead, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, chain pickerel and largemouth bass. The pond also contains banded killifish and bluegills. An alewife run comes up from Plymouth Bay through Town Brook.

Fishing:

Billington Sea offers excellent fishing and is especially productive for largemouth bass. Exceptional bass and pickerel are frequently reported. The lake also contains good populations of pumpkinseed and bluegill sunfish, yellow perch, white perch and chain pickerel. A good forage base is provided by sea-run alewives, which migrate through Town Brook. Fishing and boating can be difficult at times due to excessive weed growth. Periodic fish kills are caused by the overabundance of vegetation.

Other nearby ponds include Little Pond and Lout Pond.

January 1998